

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising a collagen-binding domain and an epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent, wherein the epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, nerve growth factor (NGF), NGF receptor, epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor, neu, ~~inhibin- α~~ , ~~inhibin- β~~ , wnt-2, and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) receptor (c-met).

67. (Previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 66, wherein the epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent stimulates epithelial cell proliferation.

68. (Previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of Claim 66, wherein the collagen-binding domain is a collagen-binding domain of von Willebrand factor.

69. (Previously presented) The fusion polypeptide of claim 68, wherein the collagen-binding domain of von Willebrand factor comprises the decapeptide WREPSFMALS (SEQ ID NO:1).

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising a collagen-binding domain and an epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent, wherein the

epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, nerve growth factor (NGF), NGF receptor, epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor, neu, ~~inhibin α -inhibin- β~~ , wnt-2, and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) receptor (c-met).

73. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid sequence of claim 72, operably linked to a promoter.

74. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 72.

75. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 74, wherein the expression vector is a retroviral vector.

76. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 72.

77. (Previously presented) A method of producing the fusion polypeptide comprising a collagen-binding domain and an epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent, comprising growing the host cells of claim 76 under conditions that allow expression of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the fusion polypeptide.

78. (Currently amended) The method of claim 77, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

79. (Currently amended) The method of claim 77, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

80. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for stimulating epithelial cell proliferation comprising a fusion polypeptide comprising a collagen-binding domain and an epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein

the epithelial cell proliferation-modulating agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, nerve growth factor (NGF), NGF receptor, epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor, neu, ~~inhibin~~ α -~~inhibin~~ β , wnt-2, and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) receptor (c-met).